

Appln No. 09/676,697

Amdt date December 21, 2004

Reply to Office action of September 21, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested.

Claims 1, 7, 9 - 12, 14, 18 - 19, 25 - 27, 29, 36 - 40, 42, 45 - 46, and 51 - 68 are now in the application. Claims 28 and 47 have been cancelled.

The Examiner has objected to the Drawings indicating that "This HOLDOFF signal informing the distributed multiple access controller 206 entities to insert a block of slots (e.g., 16 slots) before starting the countdown of contention slots" as described in the specification should be shown in the drawings. The Examiner cites to 37 C.F.R. 1.83 and MPEP § 608.02(d).

37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) provides in part that "[t]he drawing in a nonprovisional application must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims." (emphasis added). To expedite the examination of this Application Applicants have canceled dependent Claims 28 and 47, the two claims discussing HOLDOFF signals or periods, respectively.

Applicants also note that the specification and Figure 4 provide a clear understanding of the use of the HOLDOFF signal. At page 15, lines 7 - 9 the specification states that "a HOLDOFF signal is inserted . . . e.g., at a time identified by reference numeral 409 of FIG. 4" Hence, the combination of Figure 4 and the specification clearly show how the HOLDOFF signal may be incorporated into a packet 401. The specification then describes at lines 9 - 11 how the multiple access controller 206 may use the signal (e.g., this signal informs the controller entities to insert a block of slots, etc.). As discussed, for

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example, at page 10, line 19 - page 11, line 9, the multiple access controller 206 has access to packet data. In view of the above, Applicants submit that no further illustration is necessary. As Figure 4 is in full compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.83, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Figure 4 be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to the specification because of certain informalities and lack of antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The specification has been amended to correct the informalities, following the Examiner's suggestions. In addition, Claim 47 has been cancelled, without prejudice, to expedite the examination.

The Examiner has objected to the specification (paragraph 2 of the Office action) and has also rejected Claims 67 and 68 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement (paragraphs 3 - 6 of the Office action), indicating that for Claim 67: "one subsidiary collision resolution signal" and "subsidiary signal slots", and for Claim 68: "subsidiary signal slots" and "one subsidiary collision resolution signals," are not disclosed in the specification. The Examiner cites to MPEP 608.01(o) in paragraph 2.

However, page 14 lines 7 - 8 state: "Immediately following the collision, a series of signal slots are used to signal between colliding stations to resolve the collision. These slots are shown as S0, S1 (identified by reference numeral 404), and S2." (emphasis added.) MPEP 608.01(o) states, inter alia, that "[t]he meaning of every term used in any of the claims

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should be apparent from the descriptive portion of the specification" but adds that "an applicant is not limited to the nomenclature used in the application." The Applicants submit that the above cited portion of the specification provides proper antecedent basis for Claims 67 and 68.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 25, 29, 58, 7, 59, 10, 38, 61, 18, 45, 65, 19, 46, 66, 26, 36, 52, 54 and 56 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Krishna et al. The Examiner has also rejected Claims 9, 37, 60, 68, 11, 39, 62, 12, 40, 63, 14, 42, 64, 27, 28, 47, 51, 55, 53, and 57 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Krishna et al. in view of Bisdikian.

The Applicants' Claim 1 calls for "a collision detect for detecting the occurrence of a collision between a first transmission by the station and a second transmission on the shared communication channel, and for causing a collision notification signal to be transmitted to the shared communication channel by the station when a collision is detected." (emphasis added.) Similarly, Claim 25 calls for "a collision notification signal for indicating a collision of transmissions by contending stations in a contention slot, and for causing non-contending stations connected to the network to delay transmission for a period sufficient to allow resolution of the collision between the contending stations." (emphasis added.) Claim 29 calls for "transmitting a collision notification signal to the channel when a collision is detected." (emphasis added.) Finally, Claim 58 calls for "a collision detect for detecting the occurrence of a collision

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between a first transmission by the station and a second transmission on the shared communication channel, and for causing a collision notification signal to be transmitted to the shared communication channel by the station when a collision is detected." (emphasis added.)

Krishna et al., while providing for the detection of a collision, does not disclose transmission of a collision notification signal. On the contrary, Krishna et al. states that "[when] a collision is detected, [the] stations stop, wait . . . , and retry transmission." (See Column 1, lines 30 - 31). Krishna et al. discloses "mediating collisions in a network that provides a bounded access latency for high priority traffic" and "collision mediation . . . modified for high priority traffic requiring a guaranteed latency." (See Column 2, lines 7 - 16). However, all calculations are carried out independently at each station which shares access to the media. No transmission regarding collisions to other stations is disclosed. Particularly, no transmission to or reaction by non-contending stations is disclosed.

As such, the Applicants submit that Claims 1, 25, 29 and 58 are not anticipated by Krishna et al. under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Claims 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 19, 51 and 52 are dependent on Claim 1. As such, these claims are believed allowable based upon Claim 1. Claims 26, 27, 54, 67 and 68 are dependent on Claim 25. As such, these claims are believed allowable based upon Claim 25. Claims 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 45, 46, 55, 56 and 57 are dependent on Claim 29. As such, these claims are believed allowable based upon Claim 29. Claims 59, 60, 61, 62,

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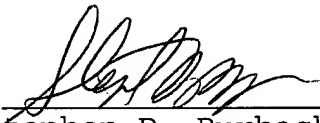
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63, 64, 65 and 66 are dependent on Claim 58. As such, these claims are believed allowable based upon Claim 58.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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